

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 10, 12-14, 20, 23-25 and 27 are amended. Further, claims 28-34 are added. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 4 may be found at least on page 137, lines 14-22, and in Fig. 51 and 52. No new matter is added by the above amendment. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 7-11, 15-22, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,267,519 (Otsuki). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is well settled that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. See MPEP § 2131. Despite the Office Action's assertions, Otsuki does not teach each and every feature presently recited in claims 1, 4, 7, 16, 20 and 27.

Determining whether Trial Processing is Acceptable

Independent claim 1 recites, in part, "a trial print instruction unit for judging, based on the parameters, as to whether or not a request for the trial processing is acceptable, wherein if the request is acceptable, the trial print instruction unit instructs the print system to execute raster image processing for image data."

Similarly, independent claim 4 recites, in part, "judging, based on the parameters, as to whether or not a request for trial processing is acceptable, wherein if the request is acceptable, instructing the print system to execute raster image processing for image data."

Applicants respectfully submit that Otsuki fails to teach, disclose or suggest judging, based on the parameters, as to whether or not a request for the trial processing is acceptable. Additionally, Applicants submit that Otsuki fails to teach, disclose or suggest a reception unit

and a transmission unit. Thus, Otsuki fails to disclose each and every element recited in claims 1 and 4.

Raster Image Processing

Independent claim 7 recites, in part, "a processing execution device for executing the requested raster image processing for image data so that the processed image data enables a first printer to output an image that is identical with that output by a second printer different from the first printer" (emphasis added).

Further, independent claim 16 recites, in part, "a registration requesting unit for requesting the processing execution device to register the processing requesting device for a trial processing for testing the raster image processing of the processing execution device; and a processing requesting unit for requesting the processing execution device to perform the trial processing" (emphasis added).

Independent claim 20 recites, in part, "a registration unit for registering the processing requesting device for trial processing of the raster image processing; and a trial processing execution unit for executing the trial processing requested by the registered processing requesting device, for image data so that the processed image data enables a first printer to output an image that is identical with that output by a second printer different from the first printer" (emphasis added).

Independent claim 27 recites, in part, "[a]n image processing method comprising: requesting to register a first device for a trial processing for trying raster image processing; requesting to execute the trial processing; register the requested first device; and executing the requested trial processing."

Otsuki is directed to a technology for correcting printing positional deviation between forward and reverse passes. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Otsuki

fails to teach, disclose or suggest raster image processing for image data. Thus, Otsuki fails to disclose each and every element recited in claims 7 and 16.

Summary

Otsuki fails to teach, disclose or suggest the above-quoted features recited in claims 1, 4, 7, 16, 20 and 27. Thus, Otsuki fails to disclose each and every element recited in claims 1, 4, 7, 16, 20 and 27.

Claims 8-11, 15, 17-19, 21, 22 and 26 variously depend from claims 1, 4, 7, 16, 20 and 27. Because Otsuki fails to teach, disclose or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 4, 7, 16, 20 and 27, dependent claims 8-11, 15, 17-19, 21, 22 and 26 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1, 4, 7, 16, 20 and 27 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Otsuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,629,753 (Usui); rejects claims 12-14 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Otsuki in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0075866 (Thormodsen). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is well settled that in determining the differences between the prior art and the claims, the question under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is not whether the differences themselves would have been obvious, but whether the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious. *See* MPEP § 2141.02. To this end, a prior art reference must be considered in its entirety, i.e., as a whole, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention. *See* MPEP § 2141.02 VI.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met: (1) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or to combine reference

teachings; (2) there must be reasonable expectation of success; and (3) the prior art reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *See* MPEP § 2142.

Independent claim 3 recites, in part, "an accounting unit, wherein: the accounting unit performs an accounting processing on the basis of the trial print parameter for the color mode when raster image processing is executed for image data in the color mode; and the accounting unit performs the accounting processing on the basis of the trial print parameter for the monochrome mode when the raster image processing is executed for the image data in the monochrome mode" (emphasis added).

Independent claim 6 recites, in part, "A printing method comprising: retaining a trial print parameter for a color mode and a trial print parameter for a monochrome mode; and executing an accounting processing on the basis of the trial print parameter for the color print mode when raster image processing is executed for image data in the color mode; executing the accounting processing on the basis of the trial print parameter for the monochrome print mode when raster image processing is executed for image data in the monochrome mode."

Independent claim 20 recites, in part, "a registration unit for registering the processing requesting device for trial processing of the raster image processing; and a trial processing execution unit for executing the trial processing requested by the registered processing requesting device, for image data so that the processed image data enables a first printer to output an image that is identical with that output by a second printer different from the first printer."

Indeed, the Examiner concedes that Otsuki fails to disclose "performing the accounting processing on the basis of the trial print parameter for the monochrome print mode when the trial print is executed in the monochrome print mode." *See* Office Action, page 9, lines 15-20. However, the Office Action further argues that Usui teaches the above-identified feature at Usui, col. 12, lines 19-30. This disclosure of Usui discloses that "prior to

the printing of the printing data, ... management unit 10 calculates an estimated printing fee for the printing of the print data.”

Contrarily, as discussed above, independent claim 3 recites, in part, “performing an accounting processing ... when raster image processing is executed for image data in the color mode and ... in the monochrome mode. Accordingly, the presently claimed combination of features recited in claim 3 may be differentiated from the applied references based at least on the timing at which the accounting processing is executed. Thus, the combination of Otsuki and Usui fails to teach, disclose or suggest all the claim limitations.

Additionally, Usui fails to disclose raster image processing (RIP) and Usui fails to teach, disclose or suggest that an image processing device of the print system performs RIP. Moreover, Usui fails to teach, disclose or suggest a reception unit and a transmission unit, which are both features recited in amended claims 1 and 4.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Thormodsen fails to teach, disclose or suggest adding the advertisement image data to image data for which raster image processing has been executed. Thus, Otsuki in combination with Thormodsen fails to teach, disclose or suggest the presently claimed combination of features recited in claims 12 and 23.

In view of the above discussion, Otsuki, Usui, and Thormodsen, in any combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest the above-identified features. Thus, Usui, and Thormodsen do not supply the subject matter missing in Otsuki. Therefore, Otsuki, Usui, and Thormodsen, either individually or in combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 20.

Claims 2, 5, 12-14 and 23-25 variously depend from claims 1, 4, 7 and 20. Because the applied references, in any combination, fail to render the subject matter of independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 20 obvious, dependent claims 2, 5, 12-14 and 23-25 are patentable for at

least the reasons that claims 1, 4, 7 and 20 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. New Claims

By this Amendment, claims 28-34 are added. Claims 28-34 variously depend from claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 20. Thus, claims 28-34 are allowable for the same reasons that claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 20 are allowable as well as for the additional features they recite.

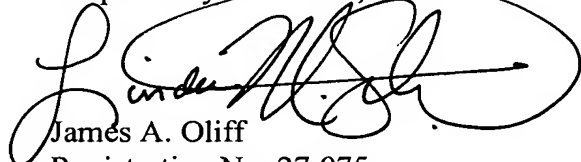
Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

Date: January 10, 2008

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